

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF CENTRE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

RESOLUTION 13 OF 2019

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PENNSYLVANIA MARSY'S LAW
CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, Marsy's Law was first proposed in 2009 by Dr. Henry Nicholas in memory of his sister, Marsalee (Marsy) Nicholas, who was murdered in 1983 at the hands of her ex-boyfriend. Marsy's Law statutes codify constitutional rights for crime victims and their families. Pennsylvania is just one of nine states that does not provide constitutional protections for crime victims; and

WHEREAS, Marsy's Law elevates statutory and common law rights currently afforded to crime victims in Pennsylvania, including the right to: receive information about their rights and available services; receive notification of proceedings and major developments in the criminal case; receive timely notifications/changes to the offender's custodial status; be present at court proceedings; provide input to the prosecutor before a plea agreement is finalized; be heard at plea, sentencing proceedings or any process that may result in the offender's release; and restitution; and

WHEREAS, Marsy's Law does not change the role of the victim, the role of the prosecutor, or the rights of the accused and convicted.

WHEREAS, Marsy's Law has support from law enforcement, prosecutors and the victim service communities, including the Pennsylvania Office of the Victim Advocate, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association, Pennsylvania State Troopers Association, and Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association; and

WHEREAS, in April of 2018, Governor Tom Wolf issued a statement, saying that "It is important for us all to reflect on how we can improve the lives of crime victims in Pennsylvania. Marsy's Law will amend the state constitution to provide crime victims with equal protections and participation in the process. Victims and their families deserve equity." and

WHEREAS, Marsy's Law passed in both chambers of the Pennsylvania General Assembly during the 2017-18 and 2019-20 legislative sessions and the constitutional amendment now requires approval by Pennsylvania voters before taking effect;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Centre County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim its support for Marsy's Law, which seeks to better promote and protect the rights of crime victims and their families through an amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Centre County Board of Commissioners does urge residents to vote "YES" on the ballot measure on Tuesday, November 5, 2019, to support adding specific rights of crime victims to the Pennsylvania Constitution.

ADOPTED this 24th day of September 2019.

CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Michael Pipe, Chair

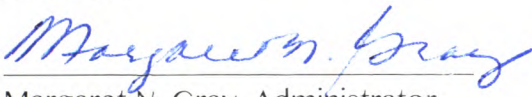


Mark Higgins, Commissioner



Steven G. Dershem, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Margaret N. Gray, Administrator